



January 7, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
The U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

It is my opinion that it is monumentally absurd for our government to try its dead level best to shut down one of our country's most successful companies. Everyone seems to have an opinion as to whether they think that Microsoft is too big, or too bureaucratic, or too unresponsive. But these are all complaints that would have probably ironed themselves out as Microsoft found that its marketplace was becoming more competitive.

What this really boils down to is that a handful of Microsoft's fiercest competitors convinced an unsympathetic government to punish Microsoft for its successes, utilizing arcane laws and overzealous government lawyers to attempt what amounts to a government takeover of an independent, private business.

Thankfully, this folly has been ended by a proposed settlement, which appears more than fair for Microsoft's competitors. They should take it and be grateful. The settlement gives computer makers and vendors the opportunity to preinstall non-Microsoft software on Windows without fear of reprisal from Microsoft, and the company will redesign Windows so that non-Microsoft products can be installed easier as well.

I am hoping that this settlement marks the end of hostilities between our government and the American business community.

Sincerely,

Tom Lynch  
President/Owner

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